

SHIPPING.

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CEEDS LIKE SUCCESS:

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SPECIAL CABLES.

FROM THE "HERALD'S" LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
Mr. Joseph Choate, a New York lawyer, who has the reputation of being a fine orator, has been appointed the United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James, London.

AFGHANISTAN.

RUSSIAN RAILWAY EXTENSION.

LONDON, Jan. 7.
Considerable alarm has been felt at Herat, in the north-west of Afghanistan, in consequence of the extension of the Merv railway to Kushk, 95 miles from Herat.

The Amer of Afghanistan has issued a proclamation with the view of allaying the uneasy feeling which exists. He states that the Czar is merely solicitous for the organisation of his dominions.

THE TRANSVAAL.

THE OUTLANDERS' PETITION.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
The position of the Transvaal outlanders claiming the protection of Great Britain in consequence of the alleged murder of Mr. Edgar, a British subject, by a policeman, has not been forwarded to the Queen, as the constable who is charged with the offence has been re-arrested after having been liberated.

FIGHTING ON THE CONGO.

A GARRISON CAPTURED BY INSURGENTS.

LONDON, Jan. 7.
Advices from the Congo state that the insurgents have defeated 200 native troops and captured the garrison at Kalambari. Three Belgian officers were killed, and several were wounded.

AFFAIRS AT CRETE.

DRAFTING A CONSTITUTION.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
A commission representing all parties is drafting a constitution for Crete for submission to the Cretan Assembly.

THE GORDON COLLEGE.

FOUNDATION-STONE LAID.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
Lord Cromer, the British Agent and Consul-General at Cairo, has laid the foundation-stone of the Gordon Memorial College near Omdurman.

In the course of a speech Lord Cromer said it was not intended to Anglicise the Sudanese.

The Queen has telegraphed to Lord Cromer, expressing her deep interest in the welfare of the Gordon Memorial College.

A British detachment at Cairo is proceeding to Khartoum.

ASSASSINATION OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

CONFESSION BY THE MURDERER.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
Luchoeni, the man who murdered the Empress of Austria, has confessed that he had two accomplices with him at the time the crime was committed. One man was armed with a revolver and the other man had a bomb. These weapons would have been used had the stabbing failed.

Luchoeni adds that the Paris anarchists provided the funds.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

ACCUSED IN A SERIOUS CONDITION.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
Ex-captain Dreyfus is reported to be suffering from dysentery. His condition is said to be serious.

THE LIPPE-DEMOLD PRINCIPALITY.

THE EMPEROR AND THE SUCCESSION.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
The Federal Council claims the right to decide the question of succession to the Principality of Lippe-Demold after the death of the Regent.

This is regarded as a victory for the Emperor William, who has for some time disputed the rights claimed by the present Regent.

BRITISH TRADE.

LONDON, Jan. 8.
According to the returns of the Board of Trade, the imports into the United Kingdom during the month of December show an increase in value of £3,998,072, and the exports an increase in value of £1,658,292, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

A NATAL LOAN.

LONDON, Jan. 7.
A Natal 3 per cent. loan of £1,000,000 has been floated on the London market. The total subscribed was £1,639,200, the average price being 94½.

PATTISON'S LIMITED.

LONDON, Jan. 7.
The deficiency in connection with Pattison's, Limited, distillers, Leith, Scotland, amounts to £28,793. The firm has decided to go into voluntary liquidation, with a view to reconstruction.

Mr. Messrs. Pattison Brothers have undertaken to surrender their private fortunes.

CHOOSE WISELY.

The children are the best judges of what they prefer. The Sydney Mail, Jan. 6.

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

A SENSATIONAL BLUE BOOK ISSUED.

THE QUESTION OF MADAGASCAR.

STRONG INDICTMENT AGAINST FRANCE.

AN INADEQUATE REPLY.

BRITISH PRESS COMMENTS.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

The British Government has published a Blue Book regarding Madagascar. The publication contains sensational disclosures, and the British press comments in strong terms on its statements.

The Blue Book shows that Lord Salisbury has indicted France with the breach of the treaty and the promises she made when she assumed control of the island.

The French Government, in its reply, is silent concerning the indictment, and only concedes the withdrawal of the proclamation issued by the Governor of Madagascar, restricting the coasting trade of the island to French ships.

Lord Salisbury's complaint that the island officials by threats compel residents and the natives to purchase only French goods has been unheeded.

The "Daily News" says that the Blue Book shows France's persistency in her policy of intrigues, and that the imposition of a high preferential tariff is simply a means of attacking the door in Lord Salisbury's face.

The "Times" says that under the cover of grandiloquent phrases, France has habitually acted with "shabbiness, cupidity, and cunning."

The "Daily Chronicle" asks "How is it possible for Great Britain to live in amity with such a Government as that of France?"

The "Pall Mall Gazette" urges that France should cede to Great Britain the "French shore" of Newfoundland as a set-off for the substantial British interests which have been strangled in Madagascar.

Jan. 8.
The "Westminster Gazette" says that any negotiations which may be entered upon with regard to an adjustment of trade rights in Madagascar must form part of a comprehensive settlement of outstanding differences.

The "St James's Gazette" considers that it would be folly to allow French protectorates to be proclaimed over regions now open to trade.

ATTITUDE OF THE FRENCH PRESS.

LONDON, Jan. 8.

The Paris newspapers publish articles dealing with the situation.

The "Debat" and "L'Eclair" accuse Great Britain of pursuing a policy of "pin-pricks."

The "Temps" deprecates Anglo-French recriminations, and says that the future must be faced in a spirit to which the past furnishes lessons. The virulence of the British press, it adds, shows a potentially disastrous state of mind.

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

SUGGESTED CESSION TO FRANCE.

INDIGNANT OUTCRY ON THE PART OF THE ISLANDERS.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

An official communication has been published in the French press, declaring that France is willing to accept compensation for the cession to Great Britain of the "French shore" in Newfoundland, which is regarded in France as a poor fishing ground though rich in minerals.

The "Standard" states that Great Britain will probably be willing to offer compensation in West Africa.

The "Matin," a Paris journal, has suggested that Great Britain should cede the Channel Islands to France.

This suggestion, has, however, raised an indignant outcry on the part of the inhabitants of the Channel Islands.

M. Delcasse, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, feels that the idea as to the cession of the Channel Islands to France is Utopian, and says that Great Britain would be likely to make such a demand a pretext for war.

LORD CROMER'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Jan. 8.

The speech delivered by Lord Cromer, the British Agent and Consul-General at Cairo, on the occasion of an audience to a number of Sheiks at Omdurman, has not been commented upon in Paris. It is believed that M. Dupuy, the Premier, silenced the press.

A declaration signed between Great Britain and France on August 5, 1898, recognised on the part of Great Britain the French protectorate and its consequences over the island of Madagascar, guaranteed religious tolerance and complete protection to the missionaries of each country, and maintained unimpaired the rights and privileges of British subjects.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

REPRESENTATION OF AYLESBURY.

THE HON. L. W. ROTHSCHILD ELECTED.

LONDON, Jan. 6.
The Hon. Lionel Walter Rothschild has been returned unopposed for the representation of Aylesbury in the House of Commons, rendered vacant by the death of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

The new member for Aylesbury is the eldest son of Baron Rothschild. He is married to the daughter of Lord Rothschild, and was born February 8, 1868. He was educated at Magdalen College, Cambridge; is a lieutenant of the Royal Bucks Hussar Yeomanry Cavalry, a lieutenant for the city of London, and a County Councillor for Hertfordshire, Tring Division.

The late member having also been a Liberal, the election makes no difference in the position of parties in the House of Commons.

A STRANGE SIGHT
would be a home without a tin of Aulsebrook's NEW MILK BOTTLES. A perfect test for young and old alike. -Advt.

First room of the Hippodrome at Sandwick, and the Sydney Mail, Jan. 6.

SPAIN.

MINISTRY OF THE COLONIES ABOLISHED.

THE SURRENDER OF PUERTO RICO.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

Spain has abolished the Cabinet office of Minister for the Colonies.

Colonel Sammartini, late Governor of Puerto Rico, has been tried by court-martial in Madrid for surrendering the island to the Americans during the late war. He was ordered to be imprisoned for life.

THE PHILIPPINES.

LONDON, Jan. 8.

The majority of the members of the Republican Cabinet at Manila formed by Senor Mabini belong to the militant party. Aguinaldo, the rebel leader, is still regarded as President of the Republic.

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER FLEET.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

Russia is adding two vessels to her volunteer fleet.

THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL STATION.

H.M.S. CRESCENT.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

H.M.S. Crescent has been commissioned to join the squadron on the Australian station.

H.M.S. Crescent is probably conveying relief crews for some of the ships on station. It will be remembered that she performed a similar duty some time ago, and upon the occasion of her visit to Sydney it was reported on board that she would probably be the "Orlando" (the flag ship) successor. She is a first-class twin screw torpedo boat, and was built at the Royal Arsenal, one of the "Edgar" class, and was laid down in 1886.

At the conference of Ministers of Agriculture, which meets next Thursday, there will be present representatives from New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria. Sir E. Braddon, who is the Minister of Agriculture, is unable to attend. Advantage will be taken of the presence of the Minister of Agriculture to have a practical trial of the various methods of dealing with the pest of the locust, which is now being spread in the south-east of Australia.

BOILER EXPLOSION.

TEN MEN KILLED.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

A disastrous boiler explosion took place at the engineering works of Hewitt and Co., at Barking, in Essex. A chimney stack, 30 ft. high, was destroyed, and several houses in the immediate vicinity of the works were shattered.

Ten workmen were killed and 12 injured.

THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

LONDON, Jan. 6.

The Duke of Marlborough has succeeded the Earl of Hopetoun as Paymaster-General of the Royal Household.

SECTARIANISM IN RUSSIA.

REQUEST FOR THE EXPULSION OF COUNT TOLSTOI.

LONDON, Jan. 6.

M. Polyadoff, Procurator-General of the Holy Synod at St. Petersburg, desires the expulsion of Count Tolstoi, the novelist, from Russia on the ground that he is encouraging the Dukhobors, sectarians.

THE COPPER MARKET.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

The copper market is strong. The present quotation is £39 per ton, an advance of £1 since yesterday.

THE TIN MARKET.

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The tin market is excited. There have been large speculative dealings at about £93 per ton, an advance of £4 5s on last quotation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PERTH, Saturday.

Mrs. Oakley, 25, wife of an engine driver at Northam, fell dead yesterday.

Michael Corbett, miner, was killed at the Quene Margaret mine, Balong, yesterday, through a fall of earth in a shaft.

In consequence of the abundant harvest in the eastern districts, and the fact that the mills can only buy up to their grinding capacity, there is a slump in the price of wheat, which has fallen to 10s. 6d. A further fall of 1s. 6d. is expected. Chat is also falling in price, and is practically unobtainable except at what are described as ruinous prices. Buyers are offering 4s. 6d. for the best quality of wheat.

The Minister for Lands expressed the opinion that requirements are 500,000 bushels of wheat for food and 250,000 bushels for seed. He thinks it is questionable whether we have that quantity, and advises those able to hold to do so. The absence of reliable statistics has prevented a proper calculation being made of the extent of the yield.

The Commissioner of Police has received a telegram from Coo that a steamer named William Sykes has been wrecked by being run over by a train on Friday evening.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND, Sunday.

The New Zealand Insurance Company has just issued the thirty-ninth annual report and balance sheet for the year ended November 30, from which it appears that the figures are largely in excess of any previous year, the total revenue being £238,500, an increase of £29,114. It is, however, to the widespread and exceptionally numerous losses in the same field and on the same scale, that the company is strong in reserves, the one exception being the fire insurance, which is a loss of £1,000,000, the directors have endeavored to carry over, paying a dividend of 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £12,175 11d. The paid-up capital and reserves still stand at £400,000.

A local journalist, a member of the Auckland Volunteer Corps, was cleaning his rifle yesterday, when a cartridge which had been left in it exploded, blowing his brains out.

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VICTORIA.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN SHIPPING.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.

A return prepared by the Customs authorities shows that during the year 1888, with a tonnage of 2,379,703 tons, arrived at this port, as compared with 1887, with a tonnage of 2,342,417 tons, for the previous year. British vessels arriving during the year show an increase of 56,000 tons, and foreign vessels a decrease of 48,000 tons.

PHYLOXERA NEAR GEELONG.

In regard to the reappearance of phylloxera at Warren Ponds, near Geelong, Mr. O. Hopson, an expert on the subject, has been sent to the place to examine the vines. He has been sent to the place to examine the vines. He has been sent to the place to examine the vines.

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TASMANIA.

HOBART, Sunday.

The Premier will meet the members of the Federal Council, Messrs. Lewis, Dobson, Moore, and Alder Douglas, on Monday. He has telegraphed to the Premier of New South Wales for the full text of the resolutions passed by the New South Wales Legislature, so that each member of the Federal Council may be furnished with a copy.

At an inquest touching the death of Edward Reed, who was found at St. New Norfolk, a verdict of accidental death from a gunshot wound was returned.

Heavy rain has fallen every day this week, completely cutting the water supply, and providing an ample supply of water for the malsters.

ANOTHER QUEENSLAND TRAGEDY.

A BOY MURDERED.

A HORRIBLE CRIME.

BRISBANE, Saturday.

On December 10 last a boy named Bill left home at Nundah, near Sandgate, on horseback, for the purpose of visiting his aunt at Redbank. He was riding a horse named "Bobby," and was wearing a blue coat and breeches. He was riding a horse named "Bobby," and was wearing a blue coat and breeches.

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